

Daily Eagle

IN DREAMLAND.

A REMARKABLE VISION AND ITS PROBABLE EXPLANATION.

What Lord Brougham Says of Dreams. A Summer Visitor's Experience—Coleridge's "Kubla Khan"—How the Soul Suffers During Sleep.

A remarkable dream was related by Rev. R. D. Grafton in the personal knowledge of Rev. Mr. Gregory, both well known ministers in Texas. In Denton county, some years since, a gentleman was sick enough to require some attention at night. No one thought the sick man dangerously ill. A friend sat with him till midnight, giving medicine. The sick man resting comfortably and no more to be done by direction of the physician, the watcher, getting drowsy, leaned his chair against the foot of the bed and fell asleep. He dreamed he saw the soul of the sick friend come out of his mouth, got on the floor, go behind a chair, try to hide behind another, then behind the wardrobe, finally crouch by the fireplace. The devil entered the room and followed the soul in every step. It hid behind the chairs, wardrobe, then before it, at the fireplace, when the soul gave a piercing shriek and awoke the sleeper to find his sick friend dead! A man dead whom no one expected to die!

This was related to show the communication between the soul in the body and that of one in the other world, or departing. Is this true? I do not think the question can be answered in the affirmative with such proof as offered in the occurrence related or any of a similar nature. I affirm that the sleeping man was awakened by the scream of his dying friend or some other noise, if any, and that the dream was a mere fancy, and that the fractional part of a second. The sleeper may have had this disordered dream and awakened from an uncomfortable position in his air to find his friend dead. He went to see if he was dead, possibly death. The two thoughts are almost if not quite inseparable.

THINKING DURING SLEEP.
Dreaming is thinking during sleep. Lord Brougham probably devoted more attention in a learned, scientific way to the study of dreams than any other writer worth mentioning, though many distinguished scholars have thought and written much on the same subject. A writer says the matter is not new. "I have known, in all ages and countries, be believed in as indications of the future; a of all forms of superstition, this, perhaps, the most excusable." Lord Brougham said all our dreams occur either just as we go to sleep or as we wake. In the main, this is correct, but it is established that dreams are exceedingly rare. I believe the sleeper who awoke to find his friend dead dreamed as he awoke. He may not have slept more than a second. Sir Benjamin Brodie, relation of Lord Holland, "On one occasion when he was fatigued, while listening to a friend reading aloud, he fell asleep, and had a dream, the particulars of which he would have occupied him a quarter of an hour or longer to express in writing. After he awoke he found that he remembered the beginning of one sentence, while he actually heard the latter part of the sentence immediately following it, so that probably the whole time during which he slept did not occupy more than a few seconds."

Last summer, when I now write, I was engaged. An easy-going knave came in. I continued to read or write. He placed his chair against the wall and fell asleep. I accidentally knocked a book off the table. He jumped up, out of his chair and thanked me for waking him from a troubled dream, which he was engaged in a fight. A pistol shot had just been fired, he said. This man had been involved in his ungoverned passion in a petty quarrel. He was brooding over it; expected to shoot some one or get shot. Had told me a short time before. The noise of the falling book caused him to dream of the fight with pistols, also awakened him from a dream that seemed to him to extend over an indefinite time. I knew it was only the fractional part of a second.

COLERIDGE'S "KUBLA KHAN."
Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" was a fragment of 200 or 300 lines that he dreamed after reading in his library "The Khan Kubla commanded a palace to be built," etc. The final composed the "Devil's Sonata" while dreaming. If it is objected that all this could not be done in the fractional part of a second of time, I would answer: What is the experience of him whose life is suddenly interrupted? A flash of the mind illumines the whole life that is past. I thought I would be aided by a horse running away with me, one year ago. Though well occupied in controlling the brain, flying as the wind along a dangerous locality, my mind swept more rapidly over scenes from childhood on over thirty years, and failed not to feel into my very pocket to ride a horse, with a favorable answer: "From the girl I left behind me," received by that morning's mail—all this as I plunged through a few seconds toward death. A lifetime compressed into time too short to reckon.

Locke says: "If the soul doth think in a sleeping man, without being conscious of it, I ask whether, during such thinking, it has any pleasure or pain, or is capable of happiness or misery?" While I would prefer to turn Locke over to Comins, Reid, Dugald Stewart, Hamilton, Mill, Brown or Ferrier, yet, remembering that Locke died in 1704, I venture to answer in the affirmative. Who has not awakened in the night, with a favorable answer: "From the girl I left behind me," received by that morning's mail—all this as I plunged through a few seconds toward death. A lifetime compressed into time too short to reckon.

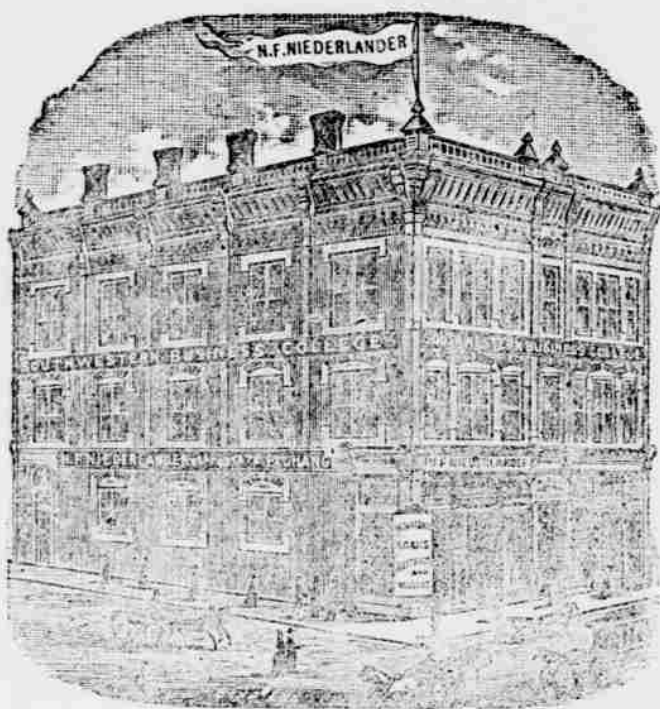
A Poet in a Sunny Mood.
Mr. Longfellow once sat in a Boston street car chatting to an acquaintance, when a burly rustic sitting beside him, moved by something in the poet's talk, suddenly asked: "Do you in the world, mister?" "No, sir; not at present," said Mr. Longfellow, gently; and the farmer murmured: "You in the boy business, mister?" Then the courteous poet, instead of letting the talk drop, turned to the man and said: "I have often been struck with the beauty of that plant—the way of growing, its blossoms, and then the hope themselves." The boy man was delighted. He brought his brown hand down heavily on Mr. Longfellow's knee and shouted "Splendid!" in a tremendous voice.

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The plan for a "universal commercial language," originated about five years ago by Herr Schleyer, of Switzerland, seems to be meeting with greater favor than has been accorded other projects of the kind. It is reported that Volapuk is already spoken with great facility by thousands of Europeans; knowledge of it is being disseminated by fifty three societies scattered over England, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Holland, Asia Minor and other countries; Volapuk grammars for the use of Hottentots and Chinese, besides all the other European nations, are either in the market or in course of preparation; and two reviews, one entirely in Volapuk and the other with a translation on the alternate pages, are regularly published. The special advantage of the new language is the ease with which it can be learned, eight lessons having enabled a Parisian class to correspond readily with students in foreign countries.—Arkansas

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